

chapter 1:

the party









WELL, SORRY, I DIDN'T
MEAN TO INVITE US BOTH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME.



FFFFFFFFFFFFFFFFTTTTT



NAH, I'M COMING.
I CAN'T BEAR THE
THOUGHT OF LEAVING YOU
TO AWKWARDLY MINGLE
ALONE.



AND THAT'S
JUST BECAUSE
I'M SO DAMN
CONSIDERATE.

THANK YOU.
PLEASE, REMIND
ME SOME MORE.

OH, I WILL



THINK I
SHOULD TAKE
THIS OFF
BEFORE
WE GO?



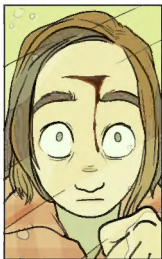
WHY?

YOU COULD
START A
TREND.



YOU'D BE
SURPRISED.









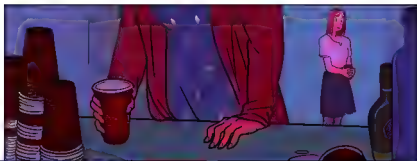




HEY!





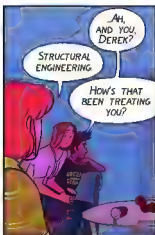
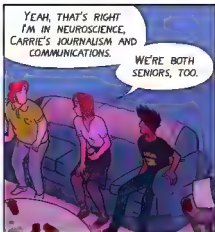


















CMON. IS
IT REALLY GONNA
BE THAT BAD
IF YOU RUN
INTO HER?



WORSE
I'M SURE IT'LL BE
PERFECTLY EXCRUCIATINGLY
PLEASANT



HELL, I KNOW
SHE'S DECENT ENOUGH
TO NOT EVEN ACT
OVERTLY SMUG

ABOUT WHAT?



UGH. IT'S NOTHING.
SHE JUST HAD A REAL
KNACK FOR SEEING THROUGH
MY BULLSHIT

I HATE THAT,
APPARENTLY



SO... WHY STICK AROUND?
NO ONE WOULD BEGRUDGE
YOU FOR LEAVING EARLY



IT SEEMED
IMPORTANT TO YOU
FOR US BOTH TO
BE HERE.

TO PATCH
THINGS UP WITH THE
NEIGHBORS





LESS IMPORTANT
THAN KNOWING MY
BEST FRIEND IS HOLED
UP IN A CRAMPED
BATHROOM.



COME ON,
WE CAN WORK
SOMETHING OUT
TOGETHER! HRRGH



WHOA, ALISON WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING!

ARE YOU SURE?
JESUS, YOU'RE
SUPER PALE

IF YOUR HEAD'S
STILL BOTHERING YOU,
YOU SHOULD'VE—



**NOTHING
IS WRONG!**



LOOK,
WE WERE...

...NNF'G
TALKING ABOUT
YOU HERE.



ALRIGHT,
ALISON

DON'T THINK
I DON'T RECOGNIZE
IT WHEN YOU'RE
DOING YOUR
THING.



WHAT "THING"?

I DON'T HAVE
A THING

THAT I
DO

DON'T DO
ANYTHING



YOU'RE HERE JUST
BECAUSE IT'S YOUR BIG,
NOBLE BURDEN TO FIX
EVERYBODY ELSE'S PROBLEMS,
BUT GOD FORBID SOMEONE
SHOULD TRY TO HELP YOU
WITH YOURS.



I'M NOT HAVING
A PROBLEM.

I JUST WANT
TO HELP

WELL, THERE'S
NO PROBLEM
HERE EITHER



YOU SHOULD GO
ON AND GET BACK
TO THE PARTY
ENJOY YOURSELF



THEERE USED TO BE A GREYING TOWER ALONE ON THE SEAAAAA...



Yooooouuuu--
ALLISON!
WELCOME BACK!

FINISH THE
SOOOOOONG

OH MY GOD,
WATE, JUST TAKE
OVER OKAY

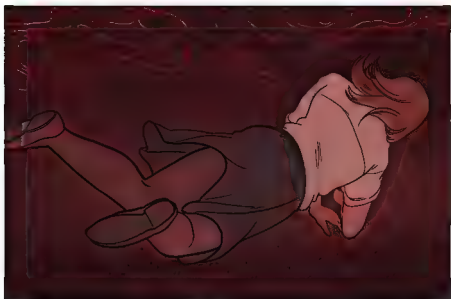
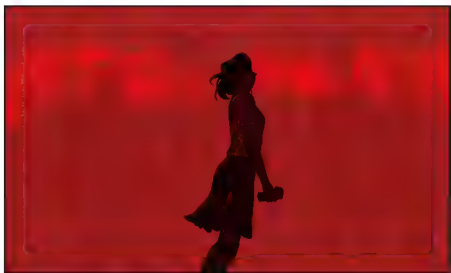
YOU'RE
WELCOME TO
JUMP IN AT
ANY TIME!

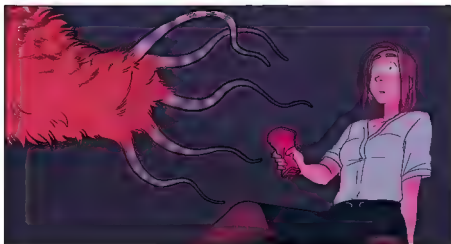
YEAH, SURE,
WHY NOT?

KRRRNGH

I'M JUST
GONNA GO
GET ANOTHER
DRINK

EXCUSE
ME--









I'M
OKAY!

EVERYONE

I'M--
I'M OKAY
I JUST--

I JUST

I'M SORRY!
I HAVE TO GO!

ALLISON
WAIT

OCCUPIED!

THUMP

OH, GOD--

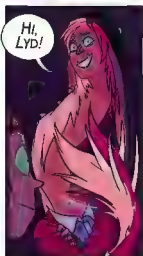
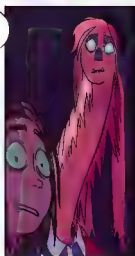
IT'S ME AGAIN,
CARR, JUST OPEN
THE DOOR

LET'S BOTH
JUST GET OUT
OF HERE, OKAY?
PLEASE?

LET'S JUST
GO HOME

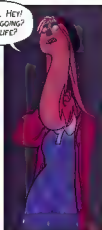
UH, WH--
YEAH, SURE?
OKAY?
IS EVERYTHING
ALRIGHT?

CLING





WOW, UH. HEY!
HOW'S IT GOING?
HOW'S LIFE?



FINE!

GREAT!

THAT'S GREAT!!



I CERTAINLY
WASN'T EXPECTING TO
RUN INTO YOU HERE,
OF ALL PLACES!

I KNOW
HOW YOU ARE
ABOUT PARTIES

YEAH, FUNNIEST
THING, ACTUALLY UH,
I LIVE DOWNSTAIRS.

SMALL WORLD



NO KIDDING!

WELL, I ONLY
HEARD THIS WAS
GOING ON BECAUSE
OF MOEZ

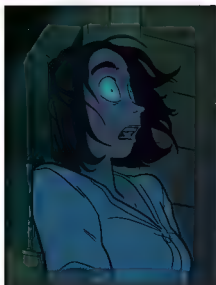


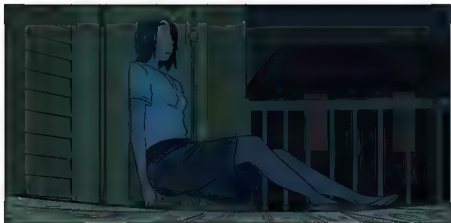
AH

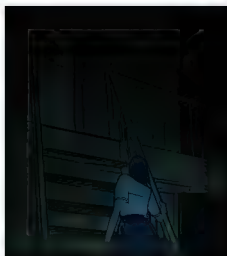
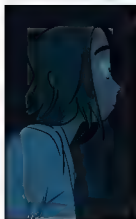
YOU
KNOW MOEZ?

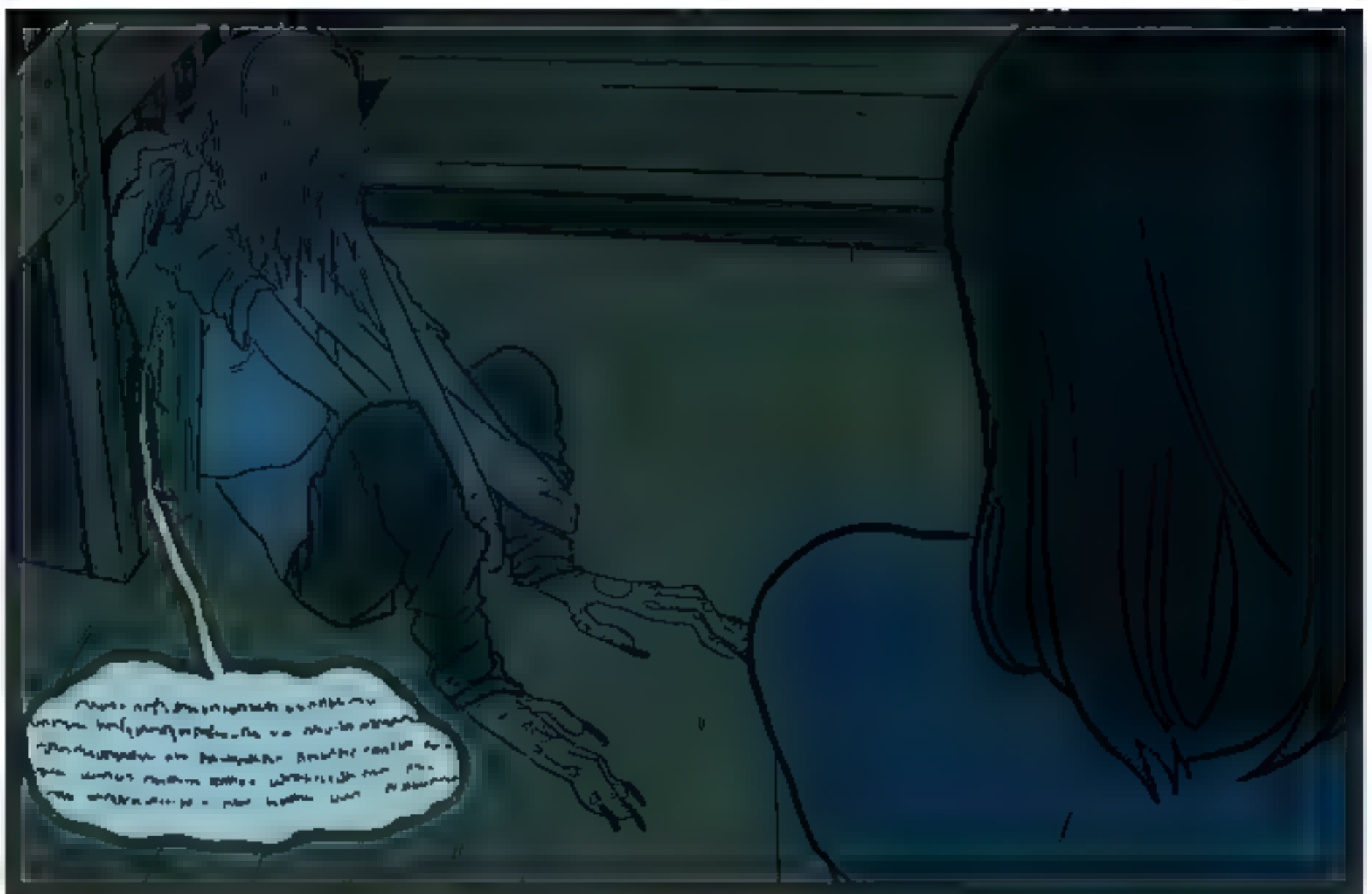
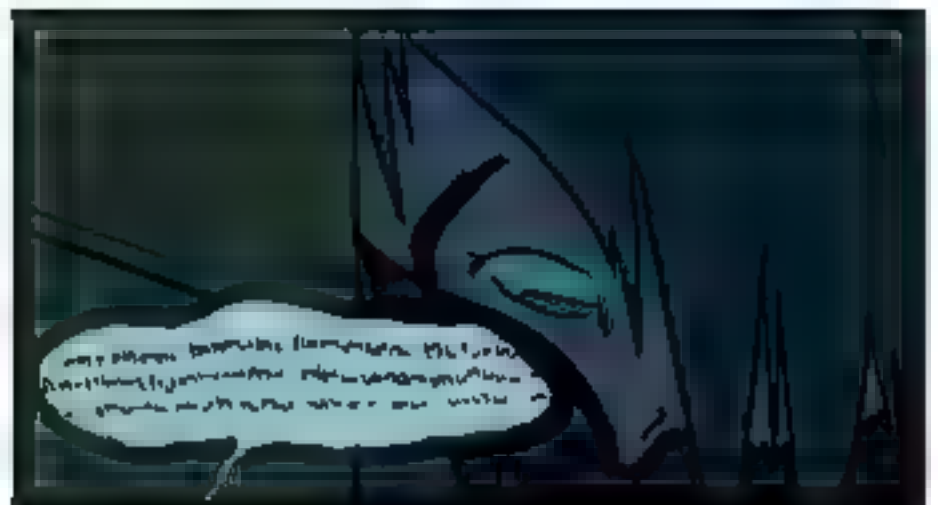
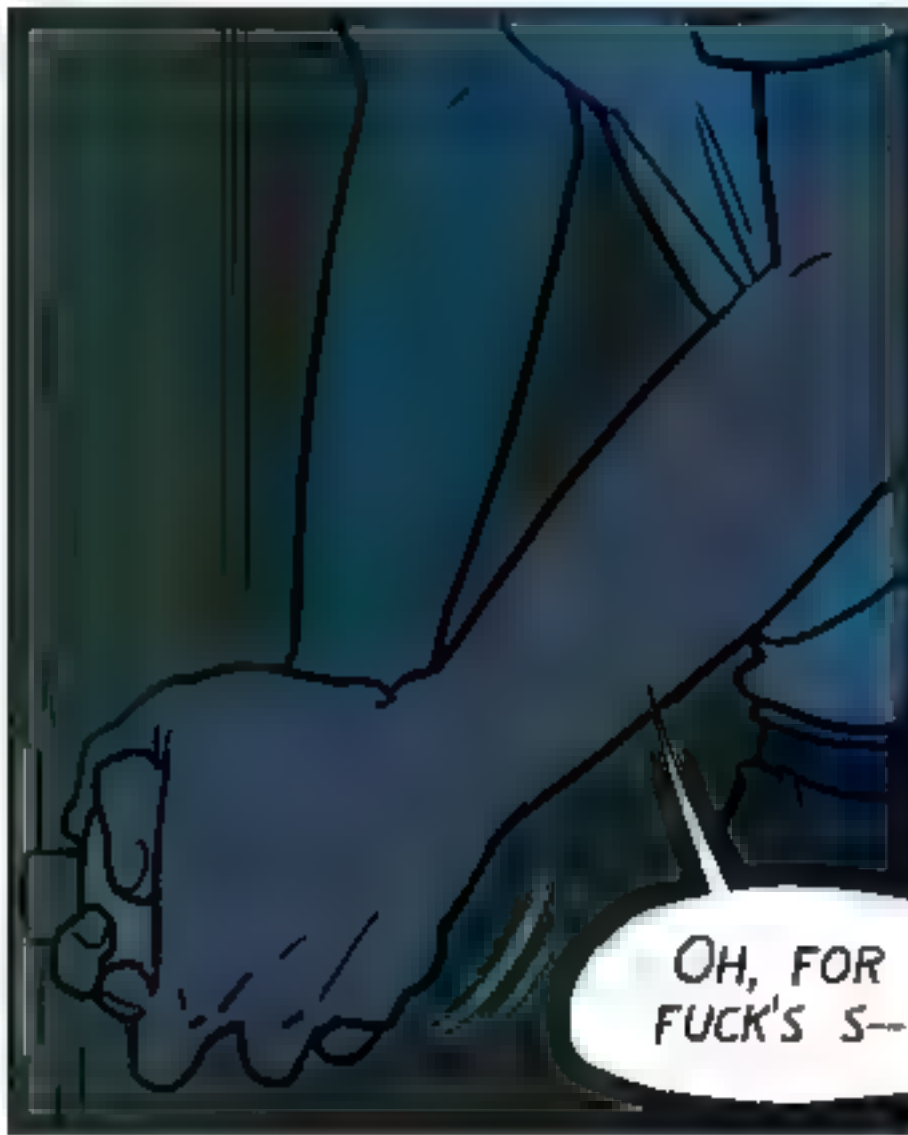


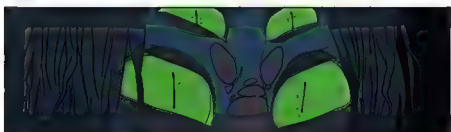
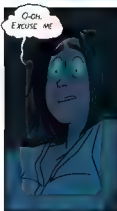
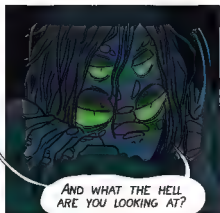
SURE,
WHO DOESN'T?

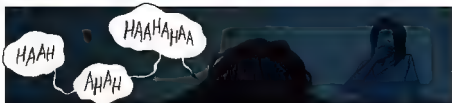
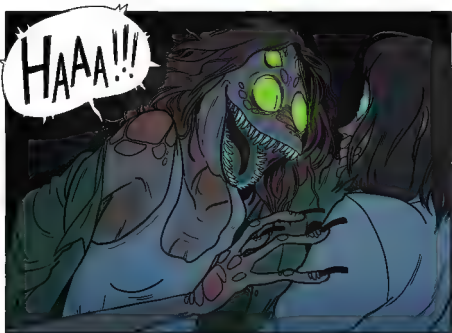














WHY NOW?
WHY
FINALLY NOW?



WELL, MAKUNA
MATATA!
WE'RE HERE.
AREN'T WE?



H-HOW DO YOU
KNOW MY NAME?



NAME?



ALLISON MICHELLE BEAUFORT,
FROM 118 TREMONT DRIVE,
CANTON, MASSACHUSETTS.
MOTHER LORI, FATHER JON,
GRANDPA LOU AND NANNIA BETH
ON YOUR MOM'S SIDE, GRANDMA
HELEN ON YOUR DAD'S. UNCLES
PETEY KENNETH, ROB, DEAN,
AUNT'S JO AND JACKIE, COUSINS...
I MEAN, WE COULD GO DOWN
THE WHOLE TREE.

OH, AND POOR
PATRICK, OF COURSE

WHEN YOU WERE THIRTEEN,
LARRIE LIBUNAO WAS STAYING
AT YOUR PLACE BECAUSE HER FOLKS
WERE IN L.A. FOR BUSINESS, AND
YOU BROKE YOUR LEFT WRIST WHEN
THE TWO OF YOU WENT DOWN THE
STAIRS IN A LAUNDRY BIN

YOU WERE WEARING
YOUR RATTY HIGH SCHOOL
SOLOLY SHIRT WHEN THE BRUINS
WON THE CUP IN 2011.

AND WHEN YOU MISSED
ROBERT ENGLUND'S Q&A AT
THAT HORROR FILM FEST IN
WORCESTER, BUT THEN RAN INTO
HIM IN THE WENDY'S OUTSIDE

SO NOW YOU'VE WORN
IT FOR EVERY TEST, EVEN
THOUGH YOU CAN'T LIFT YOUR
ARMS WHILE YOU HAVE IT ON
BECAUSE THERE ARE HOLES
IN BOTH ARMPITS.



SEE,

I'VE BEEN
WATCHING YOU

FOR A VERY

LONG

TIME



WHO ARE YOU?



AH, THAT'S
THE MILLION DOLLAR
QUESTION, ISN'T IT?

LUCKY FOR US, I'VE HAD PLENTY OF
TIME TO COME UP WITH A FEW IDEAS!

HERE, STOP ME IF ANY OF
THESE SOUND GOOD TO YOU!



AM I SOME SORT OF WARPED
DOPPELGÄNGER FROM AN ALTERNATE
UNIVERSE, TRAPPED BETWEEN THE
WINDOWPANES OF TWO REALITIES,
STARING INTO YOUR DIMENSION?



AN ALIEN POD CREATURE,
HERE TO STUDY YOUR IDENTITY
AND MANNERISMS. THEN, AT LAST,
SEAMLESSLY ASSIMILATE YOU ONE
NIGHT WHILE YOU SLEEP?



MAYBE I COME FROM YOUR
DEEPEST REPRESSED THOUGHTS,
YOUR ID MANIFESTED AS ANOTHER
CONSCIOUSNESS ENTIRELY FREE
FROM THE STUFFY WHIMS
OF THE SUPEREGO!



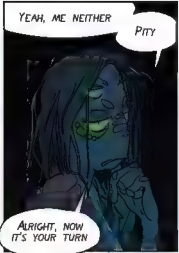
I'VE GOT IT!
WHY DON'T YOU
CALL ME "NOSILLA?"



I BET YOU CAN'T
GUESS WHAT THAT
SPELLS BACKWARDS!



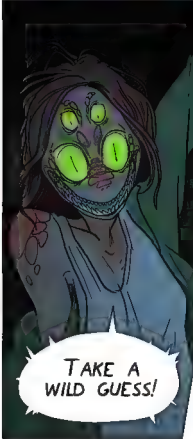
NONE OF THOSE DOING
IT FOR YOU, HUH?



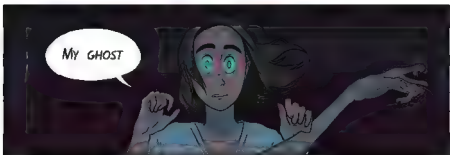
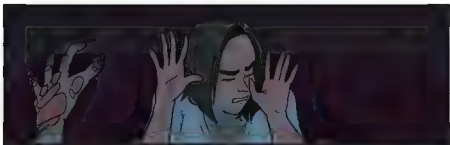
YEAH, ME NEITHER

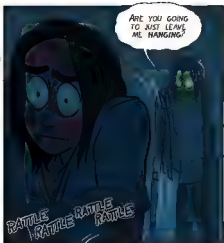
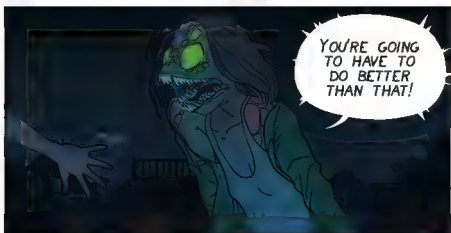
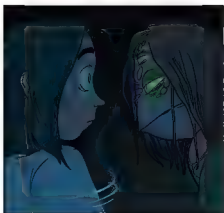
PITY

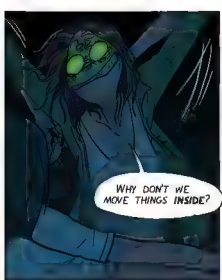
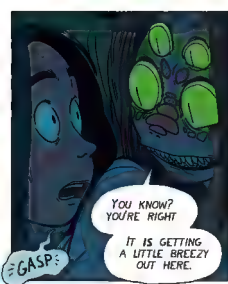
ALRIGHT, NOW
IT'S YOUR TURN

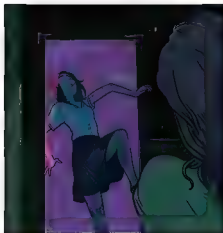


TAKE A
WILD GUESS!

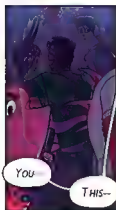












DON'T YOU DARE
TELL ME I'M NOT REAL

I DIDN'T SPEND
THIS GODDAMN LONG
LOITERING IN THE
BACKGROUND OF
YOUR AWARENESS—

MAKING WHATEVER
DESPERATE PLAY
FOR HUMAN CONTACT
I COULD—

DOUBTING MY OWN
EXISTENCE MORE AND MORE
WITH EACH PASSING SECOND
OF YOUR COMPLETELY
BANAL LIFE

THAT I'M
NOT REAL!

ONLY BY SOME
MIRACLE TO GET
TO THIS POINT

TO HEAR YOU
TELL ME

KS SHHHH

SO NOW IT'S
YOUR TURN

TO HAVE
A SEAT—

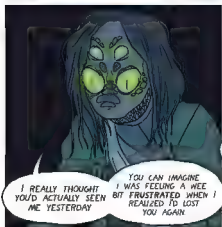
WHUMPF



AND LISTEN
TO ME.

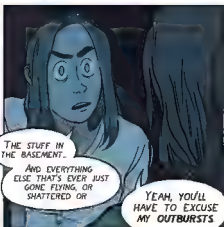


...ENOUGH?
SO THAT WAS
YOU IN MY DREAM...
AFTER I WAS
KNOCKED OUT



I REALLY THOUGHT
YOU'D ACTUALLY SEEN
ME YESTERDAY

YOU CAN IMAGINE
I WAS FEELING A LITTLE
BIT FRUSTRATED WHEN I
REALIZED I'D LOST
YOU AGAIN.



THE STUFF IN
THE BASEMENT...

AND EVERYTHING
ELSE THAT'S EVER JUST
GONE FLYING, OR
SHATTERED OR

YEAH, YOU'LL
HAVE TO EXCUSE
MY OUTBURSTS.



BUT GOSH, IT'S
JUST SO HARD
NOT TO ACT OUT
TO GET NOTICED

THOUGH NORMALLY
I CAN'T CONTROL IT
PARTICULARLY WELL



ALTHOUGH, THAT
SEEMS TO BE CHANGING
TOO, DOESN'T IT?



AND ALL
OF THIS?!



THE HEADACHES?

THE BLOOD
IN THE MIRROR?

HAH
AHA HA
HAH

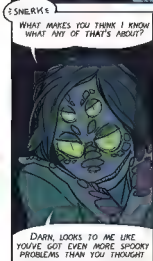
SEEING EVERYONE
AS— AS **MUTANTS**?



YEAH?

THIS IS REAL
FUNNY TO
YOU, HUH?

IS THAT WHAT
ALL THIS IS?
YOUR IDEA OF
A JOKE?



WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I KNOW
WHAT ANY OF THAT'S ABOUT?

DARN, LOOKS TO ME LIKE
YOU'VE GOT EVEN MORE SPOOKY
PROBLEMS THAN YOU THOUGHT



YOU'RE RIGHT, THOUGH,
IT'S BEEN PRETTY GOOD
FOR A LAUGH



WHAT_?

AH, HAVE SOME
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS
TOO, NOW?

WHAT A SHAME



HEY, YOU STILL
EXPECTING SOME
OTHER GHOST?

MAYBE HE
COULD TELL YOU
WHAT'S UP!

PATRICK!
OH, PAAATRICK!



SHUT UP!



WHAT THE HELL
DO YOU WANT
FROM ME?



OH, RELAX, WOULD YOU?
BELIEVE ME, IF IT WERE IN MY
INTEREST TO HURT YOU, YOU'D BE
PRETTY SORE ALREADY



ALL I WANT IS
YOUR ATTENTION



ALRIGHT, WELL
YOU'VE SURE
GOT IT NOW



I WANT TO KNOW
WHO I AM.



WH- EXCUSE ME!?

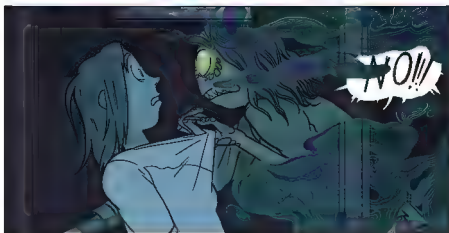
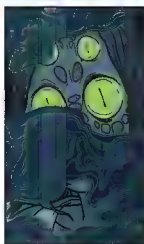
I'M SORRY, HAS IT SEEMED AT
SOME POINT LIKE I HAVE ANY CLUE
WHO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE?

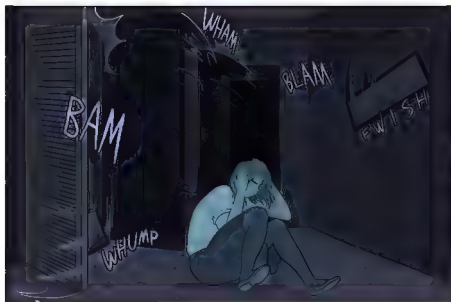


AND DOES THAT
SEEM LIKE A FAIR
ARRANGEMENT TO YOU?

THAT I KNOW EVERY
DAMN THING ABOUT YOU,
BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL
ME MY NAME?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW,
THEN YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
FIND OUT







WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT--

ALLISON?

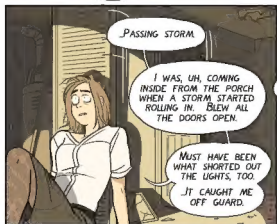


WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY EARLIER?

AND, UH, WHY ARE YOU ON THE FLOOR?



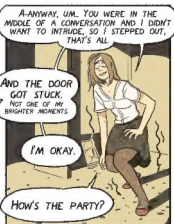
ARE YOU OKAY?



PASSING STORM.

I WAS, UH, COMING INSIDE FROM THE PORCH WHEN A STORM STARTED ROLLING IN. BLEW ALL THE DOORS OPEN.

MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT SHORTED OUT THE LIGHTS, TOO. IT CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.



A-ANYWAY, UH, YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION AND I DIDN'T WANT TO INTRUDE, SO I STEPPED OUT, THAT'S ALL.

AND THE DOOR GOT STUCK. NOT ONE OF MY BRIGHTEST MOMENTS.

I'M OKAY.

HOW'S THE PARTY?



OVER. THANK GOD.

MOEZ IS HERDING EVERYONE OUT, I'M ~~SHHHH~~ HELPING DEREK ON HIS WILD GOOSE CHASE FOR SOME LIGHTBULBS.



OH!



ALSO IF THERE'S ANY WATER DAMAGE FROM THAT SPILL IN THE KITCHEN, I WILL TOOOOALLY COVER AND TALK TO THE LANDLORD FOR



AND PLEASE TELL CARRIE I AM SO SORRY THAT GIRL TRIED TO PUKE IN HER HAT, BUT WE GOT BACK ON HER HEAD BEFORE SHE THAT'S WHAT COUNTS, NOEZ MUST KNOW HER, I'VE NEVER SEEN HER



ARE YOU READY TO GO?



YES.



THERE. NOW LET
NOBODY SAY THAT I
HAVEN'T BEEN A GOOD
SPORT, AT LEAST.

I'M SETTING THE
BAR LOW HERE, BUT
I SINCERELY HOPE YOU HAD
A BETTER TIME THAN
I DID.

IDEALLY, I WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED TO SPEND SOME
QUALITY ALONE TIME LURKING
IN THE DARK CORNER OF
A PORCH, TOO.



Mm-hmm.

IN FACT, I DO SEEM
TO RECALL HAVING A
SIMILAR IDEA.

BEFORE YOU DRAGGED
ME OUTSIDE AND BOLTED
OFF WITHOUT TELLING
ME WHY.



YEAH.

YOU SEEM DISTRACTED.

SERIOUSLY, WHAT WERE
YOU IN SUCH A RUSH
TO LEAVE OVER BEFORE?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?



WHAT? NO, NOTHING.

IT JUST... DIDN'T FEEL RIGHT.
STICKING AROUND WHEN YOU
WERE UNCOMFORTABLE.
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU WERE
FINE, BUT...

YOU CAN
TELL ME THAT
STUFF, Y'KNOW?



YEAH,
I KNOW.
THANKS.

I'M
TURNING IN.
HOW'S YOUR HEAD?



NEVER BETTER.

GNIGHT.

